

Memo

To: Clay Pearson, City Manager

From: Susan Johnson, Project Manager

CC: Trent Epperson, Assistant City Manager

Robert E. Upton, P.E., Director of Engineering Skipper Jones, Assistant Director of Capital Projection

Clarence Wittwer, Director of Public Works

Date: May 2, 2019

Re: Safe Routes to School Design Contract Award

5/2/2019

To: Mayor and City Council members

Moving ahead for design on Safe Routes to School first priorities, 80% funded from construction from Feds through HGAC. Long lead times in schedule due to paperwork and time required for the TxDOT and HGAC oversight. CJP

Purpose

This memo provides information regarding the proposed award of a contract for professional engineering services for the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project. This contract is scheduled for presentation to City Council on the May 20, 2019 meeting agenda.

Background

In 2005, Congress passed federal legislation establishing a National Safe Routes to School program to improve safety for those students walking and bicycling to and from school, and to promote these methods of travel. Then in 2012, Congress passed a transportation bill making SRTS programs eligible to compete for Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) funding. The City hired Freese & Nichols Engineers to perform a preliminary study to formally implement an SRTS program locally. Input into this process was provided by stakeholders including the Pearland Independent School District (PISD) and Alvin Independent School District (AISD), the School Boards and Administrators, School District transportation staff, teachers and crossing guards, parents and students, law enforcement personnel, Parks & Recreation personnel, Public Works personnel, Engineering & Capital Projects staff, and local health departments and businesses.

The City's SRTS Plan was published in 2014 with seven schools targeted as priorities for improvements with the greatest potential for increased walking and bicycling to and from school. A prioritized list of enhancements was identified for each school, ranging from adding a crosswalk, to connecting sidewalks, to providing a pedestrian bridge. Staff then narrowed the scope to the top five priority improvements at each school, and developed weighted criteria to determine the top three priority schools based on a cost benefit ratio and scoring system that included safety factors and recognition of the number of households and calculated number of walking students within the "no-bus" radius of the school.

The selected schools are Carleston Elementary, Cockrell Elementary, and Pearland Junior High South. While Challenger Elementary scored within the top three schools, it was not chosen because sidewalks will be added with the Hughes Ranch Road construction project. Pearland's

SRTS program was selected by the Houston-Galveston Area Council for reimbursement of 80% of construction costs through federal TAP funding. The draft Local Project Advance Funding Agreement (AFA) for construction is currently in review at TxDOT and will be brought to Council for approval once the final document is received. While design is not eligible for reimbursement, the design phase must meet all of TxDoT's standard design and environmental requirements.

Scope of Services and Contract Award

Staff have selected Gauge Engineering to perform professional engineering design services for this project. While the City has not previously engaged the services of Gauge Engineering, it is a new firm whose owner has done extensive design work for the City while employed with another firm and who will be handling this project himself. He is certified in the Local Government Project Procedures (LGPP) designation by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), a requirement for projects which are eligible for reimbursement of any phase of the work. Staff is confident that Gauge Engineering will perform well on this project.

The engineering design scope of services will include ongoing coordination with TxDOT Houston District, attendance at TxDOT's Design Concept Conference and Utility Coordination Meeting, data collection and site visits, preparation of plans for each location at 60%, 90%, and 95% completion for review and approval by both TxDOT and the City, production of the project manual and bid-ready plans, a construction cost estimate at each design milestone, facilitation of regularly scheduled design progress meetings, quality assurance/quality control and constructability review, chair pre-bid conference and issue addenda as necessary, provide bid tabulation and make recommendation of award, provide construction administration services to respond to submittals, requests for information, and to assist the Construction Manager with technical guidance.

Budget Info

Funding Sources	Series	To Date	Future	Total Budget
General Revenue - Cash				-
Certificates of Obligation		420,000	1,028,400	1,448,400
Certificates of Obligation				-
General Obligation Bonds				-
General Obligation Bonds				-
W/S Revenue Bonds				-
Impact Fee - Debt				-
Other Funding Sources - TIP			2,361,600	2,361,600
Total Funding Sources		420,000	3,390,000	3,810,000

Expenditures	To Date	Future	Total
PER			-
Land		190,000	190,000
Design		263,500	263,500
Construction		3,192,000	3,192,000
Construction Management/Inspection			-
Construction Materials Testing			-
FF&E			-

Total Expenditures	-	3,645,500	3,645,500
Project Balance/Contingency			164,500

Schedule Info

	Base Line	Current
Design Start	June-19	
Bid Start	July-20	
Construction Start	January-21	
Proposed Construction Completion	August-21	

Rain Days: N/A





